

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5    1.                    A method for allowing arbitrary protocols to be added or plugged into a middleware based application without accessing the source code for the middleware or producing a new version of the middleware source code, comprising the steps of:
- providing a connection bridge for communicating
  - 10    between the protocols and the middleware;
  - said connection bridge obtaining action requests from at least one protocol including a protocol connection identifier;
  - said connection bridge notifying said middleware that an action request is ready to have an action performed; and
  - 15                    said connection bridge transferring said protocol connection identifier to said middleware.
2.                    The method of claim 1, wherein said protocol does not use the same O/S primitives as any existing internal middleware protocol.

3. The method of claim 1 including said connection bridge communicating with multiple protocol instances and different types of protocols.

4. The method of claim 1 including said connection  
5 bridge replacing the existing internally supported protocols of the middleware.

5. The method of claim 1, further including performing said steps in an object-oriented programming language.

6. The method of claim 1, including implementing  
10 said connection bridge by utilizing a synchronization primitive and FIFO queue.

7. The method of claim 1, including implementing said connection bridge by utilizing the select O/S primitive.